

VALIDATION OF SOME NEWLY PROPOSED NAMES FOR FRANCOLINS
(PHASIANIDAE)

In a recently published revision of the phasianid genus *Francolinus* and some relatives (*Auk* 109: 24–42) four new subgeneric names were introduced on p. 37, with characters purporting to differentiate the taxa. Unfortunately, type species for these subgenera were not nominated and the opportunity is now taken to do so.

Within the genus *Francolinus* Stephens, 1811, as now understood, three subgenera were recognized, of which one, *Limnocolinus*, is new. The type species is *Perdix gularis* Temminck, 1815 by monotypy.

Within the genus *Pternistis* Wagler, 1832, as now understood, seven subgenera were recognized of which three are new. The first is *Notocolinus* for which I now designate as type species *Tetrao capensis* Gmelin, 1789, the constituent species with the most southerly range. The second is *Squamatocolinus* for which I now designate as type species *Francolinus squamatus* Cassin, 1857, by virtual tautonymy. The third is *Oreocolinus* for which I now designate as type species *Francolinus nobilis* Reichenow, 1908.

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BREEDING OF THE LAVENDER FIREFINCH

The shy and secretive nature of the nesting Lavender Firefinch *Estrilda caerulescens* in Senegal, remarked upon by Dr Baillon (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 112 (1992): 274–275), does not seem to be the experience in The Gambia. Gore (1990, *Birds of the Gambia*, B.O.U. Checklist, revised ed.) describes *Estrilda caerulescens* as a “not uncommon resident” found throughout The Gambia; breeding recorded from August to October.

In the Lower River region of The Gambia the Lavender Firefinch is a common garden bird, often occurring in small flocks, as Dr Baillon notes, with other estrildines. There are many records of nest-building there in August and September (T. V. Sims, S. Tulloch and R. Parsons, pers. comm.), particularly in citrus trees; and the nest, but not the eggs, has been described from observations made in the compound of the Medical Research Council at Fajara, 13°40'N 16°50'W (Moore 1983, *Malimbus* 5: 56). Birds nesting in this well-frequented area were not easily disturbed; one nest was built within 2 m, and in full sight of, an open window.

Further observations made in 1983 showed that a variety of materials was used for nest-building. The main part of the globe built of seeding grasses took three days to complete. Lining with longer, more lax, grasses followed; one bird carrying the material to the nest entrance where the second bird could be seen to receive it. Other materials carried to the nest at this stage included *Asparagus plumosus* and